Antique coins missing, admits govt

Burea Report

ISLAMABAD, Dec 31: The government on Thursday admitted that rare antique coins, ranging from 4th century B.C to 20th century, are missing from the National Museum of Karachi.

The admission was made by the minister for culture, sports, and tourism in his written response before the national assembly, to a question asked by MNA Kunwar Khalid Yunus.

"During the process of handing and taking over the charge of the Numismatics Section, National Museum of Pakistan, from the outgoing in charge of the section, the following coins were found missing: i) Gold coins No. 33; ii) Silver coins No. 348; and Copper coins No. 304 (period ranging from 4th century B.C to 20th century)," disclosed the minister.

The value of the coins in the present circumstances cannot be evaluated. The missing coins were mostly acquired during the past 30 to 40 years, the minister (whose name was not mentioned in the written answer) said.

Regarding the security arrangement in and around the museum, the minister said that the coins were securely stored in the reserve collection kept in a strong-room provided with special type cabinets designed for the purpose. Normally rare coins are not placed on display and only their casts are displayed in the galleries for the benefit of the visitors.

For the overall security of the museum there is police guard to safeguard the museum round the clock. In addition to police guards two watchmen of the department of archaeology and museums are also posted at the museum day and night, whereas one museum attendant stands vigilant in each gallery during museum hours.